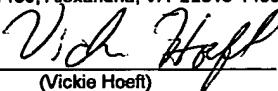


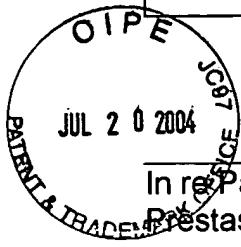
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Dated: 7/20/04

Signature:


(Vickie Hoeff)

Docket No.: 254148006US
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Prestas et al.

Application No.: 09/545,436

Filed: April 7, 2000

For: CREATING VIRTUAL PRIVATE
CONNECTIONS BETWEEN END POINTS
ACROSS A SAN

Confirmation No.: 9813

Art Unit: 2665

Examiner: Volper, Thomas E.

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JUL 26 2004

Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT CORRESPONDING TO APPLICANTS' REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.114)

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2004 (Paper No. 12), finally rejecting claims 1-26, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.